



# Burrington Parish Council

## Newsletter: April 2022

### **Dear Parishioners,**

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Annual Parish Meeting that was planned and advertised to be held last year was held by Zoom and not in the Parish Room. Despite the high incidence of Covid at the moment, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Parish Room on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm but no refreshments will be served. This newsletter should give you an idea of the activities the Parish Council has undertaken during the past year. All the minutes of our meetings are available to read on the Parish Council web site and are also displayed on the Parish Council's notice boards.

In the coming year, in addition to routine matters such as running the Burial Ground, commenting on planning applications and managing the public toilets in Burrington Combe we will respond to many of the public consultations that are issued by the Government and North Somerset Council.

The Council has met seven times during the year and discussed many local issues. Councillors have also attended other meetings during the year, such as the organising committee for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the Langford and Churchill Minibus Committee, the Parish Councils' Airport Association and North Somerset Council's Town and Parish Forums. Time has also been spent studying and commenting on planning applications that may affect the parish, including potential impacts on road traffic and flood risk of applications in neighbouring parishes.

**Transparency:** The Parish Council website where minutes and accounts are posted, is available to all, to maintain transparency and openness about Parish Council business. Notice Boards are also still used as we are aware that not everyone has an internet connection.

**Village Maintenance:** The Parish Council has been very aware of the problem of fly tipping in the Parish and we are reporting all cases as they occur. Rubbish in the Combe has also been a problem, mostly thrown from passing cars. However, litter picking is problematic in this area as there are no pavements and the Parish Council's insurance does not cover anyone picking litter on the edge of the road.

Drains are always an issue and we report after every meeting to North Somerset Council's Highways department on our concerns affecting the A368, the A38, Lower Langford and the village square with Ham Link. The council is aware that the drainage systems have to be kept working with regular checks and jetting or flooding will cause problems in the future.

Two students who live in the parish offered, as a part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, to litter pick and do some clearing of footpaths locally. The Parish Council thanks them for their voluntary efforts.

The Burial Ground has been mowed and cared to a high standard by Jeff Martin. Pete Marshall, our Village orderly, trims the hedges and keeps many of the paths and the bus shelters in the Parish tidy. Pete Marshall also trims Burrington Lane/Rickford Lane twice a year.

**Burrington Combe Toilets:** The Parish Council has been able to manage them effectively with only a few minor repairs and maintenance issues during the year. The Parish Council is aware of the high volume of use that these facilities have and we are thankful to the groups of outdoor activity providers that support the Council financially to help keep them open. The Parish Council has been successful in applying for financial support from the AONB and the Mendip Society. We were pleased to accept grants because activity groups had withdrawn all support for 2 years during the Covid restrictions. The toilets are the only such facilities open in the AONB. The Husher family keeps the toilets clean and maintains them to a high standard, but there has been some damage and graffiti during the year.

**Dog Poo:** The Parish Council remains very concerned about the issue of dog poo and has spent time in talks with the AONB team and others trying to address the problem. The Parish Council thanks responsible dog owners but worries about the number of poo bags left hanging in trees. We will persevere with trying to find answers.

**Village Defibrillators:** There are now two defibrillators installed within the parish, one in the village square in the old telephone box and one outside the Plume of Feathers at Rickford. These are inspected on a monthly basis to remain operational; we thank the Hillman family for undertaking this duty in Burrington and Matt Hartley in Rickford and reporting to the Ambulance service. Funds have been raised and passed to the Parish Council very generously from the proceeds of the Duck Race, the Rickford Dash, the Rickford Association and others to enable the purchase of the second defibrillator. We hope to hold a "meet the defib. evening" in Rickford in due course.

**Churchill and Langford Minibus Society:** The Parish Council has again contributed towards the CLMS, whose services are available to those in the parish. The society runs minibus trips to destinations such as Cheddar, Wells and Weston. Membership of the society is free but passengers are asked for a small donation when making a journey.

During the pandemic volunteers from the minibus society and others formed The Mutual Aid Organisation, which helps those in need with hospital transport, medication deliveries, shopping etc using the minibuses and volunteers' cars. Details of their services, timetables and contacts can be found on the parish website.

**Planning:** During the past year, the Parish Council was consulted on 6 planning applications. Most were for extensions or alterations to houses, although there were also some for agricultural buildings and for works affecting tree protection orders. The Parish Council only comments on planning matters when there is a clear local public interest at stake.

We were, for example, concerned that a proposed change of use of Rickford Chapel to commercial use without dedicated off-road car parking could result in difficulties near the junction between The Batch and the A368, exacerbating existing problems of car parking and road access to Rickford. Unfortunately, our suggestion of dedicating a small area of land nearby as a village car park to serve local residents and local businesses like The Plume of Feathers, as well as the proposed business use of the Chapel, was rejected by the landowner and not pursued by North Somerset Council planners.

There has been no progress with planning permission (and listed building consent) given on 6 July 2020 for redevelopment of the former Water Gardens Centre site and historic walled garden on Bath Road to create 12 new houses. An application was submitted on 2 June 2021 seeking to remove the planning obligation to pay for off-site provision of one affordable dwelling. The applicants claimed that this requirement made their scheme unviable, although two viability appraisals, one submitted by the applicants and one commissioned by North Somerset Council, both showed that viability of the scheme was doubtful even without the affordable housing requirement. Burrington Parish Council, Churchill Parish Council and The Mendip Society all objected to relaxation of the affordable housing obligation. The application to remove the affordable housing obligation remained undetermined in early April 2022.

An appeal against North Somerset Council's refusal of planning permission to expand the capacity of Bristol Airport to 12 million passengers per annum (mppa) from the currently permitted capacity of 10 mppa (and actual use of 8.9 mppa in 2019) was allowed on 2 February 2022 following a public inquiry conducted by a panel of Planning Inspectors from 20 July to 8 October in 2021. Burrington Parish Council opposed the application and supported the efforts of North Somerset Council and the Parish Councils Airport Association (PCAA) to dismiss the appeal. Some objectors are now seeking to challenge the Inspectors' decision in the High Court.

North Somerset Council is currently progressing a new Local Plan covering the period up to 2038, to replace its current Core Strategy, (January 2017) Development Management Policies (July 2016), and Site Allocations Plan (April 2018). The lack of up-to-date policies for housing land supply has resulted in a large number of housing developments being granted planning permission on appeal by planning inspectors in recent years. The programme for the new Local Plan aims for adoption by December 2023.

**Consultation on the new Local Plan runs from 14th March to 29th April 2022.** There is a link to the Preferred Options document and how to respond on the Parish Council web site. Parishioners are encouraged to express their views directly to North Somerset Council. As there are no proposed site allocations in the this parish, the Parish Council will be considering in more general terms the proposed settlement strategy including implications for this parish and neighbouring parishes, traffic on roads in the parish, overall housing provision in the district and rural conservation.

**Annual Accounts, 31st March 2022:** During 2021/22 the Parish Council precept was maintained at £3,000. Other income was £6,711.15. Expenditure totalled £8,112.48. The precept will be increased to £6,250 for the coming year.

<b>RECEIPTS</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Balance brought forward	<b>£ 14,717.67</b>		
Annual Precept	£ 3,000.00	Clerk's Salary	£ 2,200.00
Burial Fees	£ 1,030.00	Admin Expenses	£ 138.41
Burrington Combe WCs	£ 5,581.25	Hall Hire	£ 171.00
Sundry	£ 90.00	Subscriptions (excluding insurance)	£ 278.69
Bank Interest	£ 9.90	Insurance	£ 519.72
		Burial Ground	£ 880.00
		Parish Maintenance	£ 1,167.04
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£ 9,711.15</b>	Burrington Combe WCs	£ 2,602.55
		Other Payments:	
		WelMed - Pads for Defibrillator	£ 55.08
		Churchill & Langford Minibus Society donation	£ 100.00
		<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£ 8,112.48</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>£ 16,316.34</b>		
<i>Comprising:</i>			
Current Account	£ 3,040.52		
Deposit Account	£ 6,622.91		
Liquidity Account	£ 8,170.78		
	£ 17,834.21		
Less uncleared cheques	-£ 1,517.87		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 16,316.34</b>		

**Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** The Parish will be following the national pattern of events over the extended Bank Holiday weekend of **2nd-5th June**. It is hoped that as many members of our community as possible will join us.

- **Thursday 2nd June:** there will be a bonfire with fireworks, barbecue and bar on the Church Field (next to Burrington House) from 7.30 pm.
- **Sunday 5th June:** there will be a short service at 12 noon, hopefully in the churchyard if weather permits, followed at 12.30 by a street party in The Square. A pig roast will be provided but please bring your own picnic to accompany it. There will also be live music and a bar. After lunch, children's games will be organised in the school field as well as other activities including a family village treasure hunt.

As a memorial to the Jubilee we are looking at participation in 'The Queen's Green Canopy' which will involve planting trees in the parish next winter.

Anyone who is interested in getting involved or helping with any of these events please contact Helen Jackson, 07527 447231

See the back page of this Newsletter for a poster and for updates about events keep an eye on:

- the Parish Web Site: <[burrington-pc.org.uk](http://burrington-pc.org.uk)> and
- the Parish Facebook Page: <<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1446113792189807/>>

**Parish Council Web Site:** You may have noticed that a new Parish Council web site has been created. It has an improved layout and other features to comply with new government regulations for the accessibility of public sector web sites. Suggestions and contributions for the web site would be warmly welcomed, including news about the parish, details of events, blogs, histories, photographs ... and any other items of interest.

# BURRINGTON'S BIG JUBILEE WEEKEND

**THURSDAY 2 JUNE  
FROM 7.30PM –  
BEACON LIGHTING,  
BAR AND FIREWORKS  
IN THE CHURCH FIELD**



**SUNDAY 5 JUNE –  
OUTDOOR CHURCH  
SERVICE (AT MIDDAY)  
FOLLOWED BY PIG  
ROAST AND GAMES  
AT 12.30PM**

**FURTHER DETAILS ARE AT [WWW.BURRINGTON-PC.ORG.UK](http://WWW.BURRINGTON-PC.ORG.UK)**



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